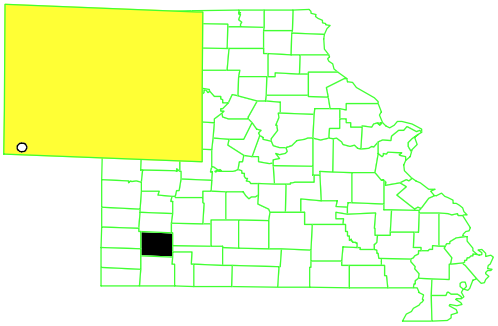
SYNTEX FACILITY

MISSOURI
EPA ID# MOD007452154



EPA Region 7
City: Verona, 30 miles southwest of Springfield
County: Lawrence County
Other Names: Spring River Basin
Syntex Tank Spill Area
Hoffman-Taff Lagoons-Former
Syntex Detoxification Area
Syntex Trenches
Slough Area-Hoffman/Taff Lagoons

SITE DESCRIPTION

The Syntex Facility is a 180-acre site located in rural, predominantly agricultural Verona. In October 1996, Syntex Agribusiness, Inc., sold to DuCoa L.P., a Dupont/Con Agra limited partnership. Hoffman-Taff produced 2,4,5-T at the facility for use in the production of the defoliant more commonly known as Agent Orange. Hoffman-Taff leased a portion of the plant in 1969 to the Northeastern Pharmaceutical Chemical Company (NEPACCO) where hexachlorophene was produced from 1969 to 1971. The production of hexachlorophene generated waste streams containing dioxin. Dioxin residues were disposed of in five areas at the Verona facility. The major areas identified as being contaminated are: the slough area; lagoon area; spill area/irrigation area; burn area; and trench area. In 1989, Syntex excavated and transported the wastes from the burn, slough, irrigation, and lagoon areas to a mobile incinerator temporarily located at the nearby Denney Farm site, to destroy the dioxin. The incineration was completed in 1989. The population within 3 miles of the Syntex Facility site is approximately 650 people. The active portion of the facility is located within the Spring River 100-year flood plain.

Site Responsibility:

This site is being addressed through Federal and potentially responsible parties' actions.

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date:	12/30/82
Final Date:	09/08/83
Deleted Date:	

THREATS AND CONTAMINANTS

The fish in the Spring River were contaminated with dioxin up to 12 miles downstream of the site. The soil, pools, puddles, and groundwater on the site also were contaminated with dioxin and volatile organic compounds.

CLEANUP APPROACH

Response Action Status

Dioxin-Contaminated Soils and Equipment: EPA selected a remedy in 1988 to address the contaminated soils and equipment at the site. The selected cleanup remedy included: excavating and off-site thermal treatment of dioxin-contaminated soil that exceeds a health-based criteria for an industrial site; dismantling and decontaminating equipment with a series of solutions and water rinses; and installing a clay cap with a vegetative cover over the trench area, backfilling and vegetating excavated areas and revegetating areas contaminated with dioxin above federal approved levels. The site owners removed contaminated soil above 20 parts per billion dioxin concentration and transported it off site for incineration. The ash residue was disposed of off site as well. This action also involved clay capping and revegetating over the trench area. The final cleanup included decontamination of the equipment at the site. Decontamination and dismantling of contaminated photolysis and old NEPACCO equipment was completed in 1997.

Ground water: In early 1993, Syntex completed the groundwater studies, and a remedy decision was issued that states that no further action is required at this time, since contamination is within established health-based standards. Monitoring will continue on a quarterly basis to ensure the continued protectiveness of the remedy.

Site Facts: In August 1982, Syntex signed a Consent Order with the EPA in which the company agreed to study the disposal sites and Spring River, under the authority of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). In September 1983, Syntex Agribusiness and the EPA entered into a Consent Agreement, which outlined the plan the company would follow in cleaning up the Syntex site.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS

Much of the cleanup work at the Syntex site has been completed. Contaminated soils have been removed and formerly contaminated areas have been capped and revegetated. All contaminated equipment has been treated and disposed. These actions have reduced the potential for exposure to dioxin contamination at the site. Further monitoring of groundwater is taking place. Dioxin levels in Spring River fish populations have steadily decreased over the past several years. The fishing advisory due to dioxin contamination in the Spring River was lifted by the Missouri Department of Health in 1993.

SITE REPOSITORY

Superfund Records Center
901 N. 5th St.
Kansas City, KS 66101
Mail Stop SUPR
(913)551-4038

REGIONAL CONTACTS

SITE MANAGER: Robert Feild
E-MAIL ADDRESS: feild.robert@www.epamail.gov
(913) 551-7697

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COORDINATOR:
PHONE NUMBER:

PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTER:
E-MAIL ADDRESS:

STATE CONTACT: Pia Capell
PHONE NUMBER: 573 751-8629

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

STATE: MO
0751
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 07
EPA ORGANIZATION: SFD-M0KS/SUPR

MODIFICATIONS